

FILED

MAR 27 2024

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MO
ST. LOUIS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
ERIK ELSASSER,)
)
Defendant.)

4:24CR141 SEP/JSD

INDICTMENT

COUNT I

The Grand Jury charges that:

At all times pertinent to the charges in this indictment:

1. Federal law defined the term:

(a) “minor” to mean any person under the age of eighteen years (18 U.S.C. § 2256(a));

(b) “sexually explicit conduct” to mean actual or simulated

(i) sexual intercourse, including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-

anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex,

(ii) bestiality,

(iii) masturbation,

(iv) sadistic or masochistic abuse, or

(v) lascivious exhibition of the anus, genitals, or pubic area of any person

(18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A)); and

(c) “computer” to mean an electronic, magnetic, optical, electrochemical or other high speed data processing device performing logical, arithmetic or storage functions, including any data storage facility or communications facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such device. (18 U.S.C. § 2256(6)).

(d) “child pornography” to mean any visual depiction, including any photograph, film, video, picture, or computer or computer-generated image or picture, whether made or produced by electronic, mechanical, or other means, of sexually explicit conduct, where--

(A) the production of such visual depiction involves the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or

(C) such visual depiction has been created, adapted, or modified to appear that an identifiable minor is engaging in sexually explicit conduct. (18 U.S.C. § 2256(8)).

2. The “Internet” was, and is, a computer communications network using interstate and foreign lines to transmit data streams, including data streams used to store, transfer and receive graphic files.

3. Between on or about August 23, 2022, and on or about August 22, 2023, in the Eastern District of Missouri,

ERIK ELSASSER,

the defendant herein, did knowingly distribute image files and video files of child pornography using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, to wit: the defendant knowingly distributed image files and video files of child pornography via the internet, to include but not limited to images and videos of prepubescent children engaged in acts of sexual intercourse and

the lascivious display of their genitals, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2), and punishable under 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(b)(1).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

The Grand Jury further finds by probable cause that:

1. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 2253, upon conviction of an offense in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(2), as set forth in Count I of the Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States of America: any visual depiction as described in Sections 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A or 2260 of Title 18, or any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter which contains any such visual depiction, which was produced, transported, mailed, shipped or received in violation of Chapter 110 of Title 18; any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from such offense; and any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of such offense or any property traceable to such property.
2. Specific property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra Cell Phone
3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
 - a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
 - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
 - c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
 - d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
 - e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States of America will be entitled to the forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

A TRUE BILL.

FOREPERSON

SAYLER A. FLEMING
United States Attorney

MICHAEL K. HAYES, #61395 MO
Assistant United States Attorney